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FINANCING OF THE UNITED NATIONS OBSERVER MISSION IN LIBERIA

Report of the Fifth Committee (Part II)

Rapporteur: Mr. Ihor V. HUMENNY (Ukraine)

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The previous recommendation made by the Fifth Committee to the General Assembly under agenda item 135 appears in the report of the Committee contained in document A/51/504.

2. The Fifth Committee resumed its consideration of the item at its 49th and 51st meetings, on 11 and 17 March 1997. Statements and observations made in the course of the Committee's consideration of the item are reflected in the relevant summary records (A/C.5/51/SR.49 and 51).

3. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the reports of the Secretary-General (A/51/756 and Add.1) and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/51/423/Add.1).

II. CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT RESOLUTION A/C.5/51/L.45

4. At the 51st meeting, on 17 March, the Rapporteur introduced a draft resolution entitled "Financing of the United Nations Observer Mission in Liberia" (A/C.5/51/L.45), submitted on the basis of informal consultations.

5. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.5/51/L.45 without a vote (see para. 6).

III. RECOMMENDATION OF THE FIFTH COMMITTEE

6. The Fifth Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Financing of the United Nations Observer Mission in Liberia

The General Assembly,

Having considered the reports of the Secretary-General on the financing of the United Nations Observer Mission in Liberia[1] and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[2]

Recalling Security Council resolution 866 (1993) of 22 September 1993, by which the Council established the United Nations Observer Mission in Liberia, and subsequent resolutions by which the Council extended the mandate of the Observer Mission, the latest of which was resolution 1083 (1996) of 27 November 1996,

Recalling also its decision 48/478 of 23 December 1993 on the financing of the Observer Mission and its subsequent resolutions and decisions thereon, the latest of which was resolution 51/3 of 17 October 1996,

Reaffirming that the costs of the Observer Mission are expenses of the Organization to be borne by Member States in accordance with Article 17, paragraph 2, of the Charter of the United Nations,

Recalling its previous decision regarding the fact that, in order to meet the expenditures caused by the Observer Mission, a different procedure is required from that applied to meet expenditures of the regular budget of the United Nations,

Taking into account the fact that the economically more developed countries are in a position to make relatively larger contributions and that the economically less developed countries have a relatively limited capacity to contribute towards such an operation,

Bearing in mind the special responsibilities of the States permanent members of the Security Council, as indicated in General Assembly resolution 1874 (S-IV) of 27 June 1963, in the financing of such operations,

Mindful of the fact that it is essential to provide the Observer Mission with the necessary financial resources to enable it to fulfil its responsibilities under the relevant resolutions of the Security Council,

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[1] A/51/756 and Add.1.

[2] A/51/423/Add.1.

1. Takes note of the status of contributions to the United Nations Observer Mission in Liberia as at 12 March 1997, including the contributions outstanding in the amount of 4,610,679 United States dollars, representing 6 per cent of the total assessed contributions from the inception of the Observer Mission to the period ending 31 March 1996, notes that some 39 per cent of the Member States have paid their assessed contributions in full, and urges all other Member States concerned, in particular those in arrears, to ensure the payment of their outstanding assessed contributions;

2. Expresses concern about the financial situation with regard to peacekeeping activities, in particular as regards the reimbursement of troop contributors, which bear burdens owing to overdue payments by Member States of their assessments;

3. Expresses appreciation to those Member States that have paid their assessed contributions in full;

4. Urges all Member States to make every possible effort to ensure payment of their assessed contributions to the Observer Mission in full and on time;

5. Endorses the observations and recommendations contained in the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[2] subject to the provisions of the present resolution;

6. Requests the Secretary-General to take all necessary action to ensure that all United Nations activities related to the Liberian peace process are administered in a coordinated fashion with a maximum of efficiency and economy;

7. Decides to appropriate to the Special Account for the United Nations Observer Mission in Liberia the amount of 12,169,600 dollars gross (11,838,800 dollars net), already authorized and apportioned under the terms of resolution 50/210 of 23 December 1995 for the maintenance of the Observer Mission for the period from 1 February to 31 March 1996 and to extend the period covered by the appropriation from 31 March to 30 June 1996;

8. Decides also to appropriate to the Special Account for the Observer Mission an additional amount of 17,899,000 dollars gross (17,544,100 dollars net) for the operation of the Observer Mission for the period from 1 July 1996 to 30 June 1997;

9. Decides further to apportion among Member States the amount of 5,840,000 dollars gross (5,494,500 dollars net) for the maintenance of the Observer Mission for the period from 1 July to 30 November 1996 in accordance with the composition of the groups set out in paragraphs 3 and 4 of General Assembly resolution 43/232 of 1 March 1989, as adjusted by the Assembly in its resolutions 44/192 B of 21 December 1989, 45/269 of 27 August 1991, 46/198 A of 20 December 1991, 47/218 A of 23 December 1992, 49/249 A of 20 July 1995, 49/249 B of 14 September 1995, 50/224 of 11 April 1996 and 51/218 A and B of 18 December 1996 and its decisions 48/472 A of 23 December 1993 and 50/451 B of 23 December 1995, and taking into account the scale of assessments for the years

1996 and 1997, as set out in its resolution 49/19 B of 23 December 1994 and its decision 50/471 A of 23 December 1995;

10. Decides that, in accordance with the provisions of its resolution 973 (X) of 15 December 1955, there shall be set off against the apportionment among Member States, as provided for in paragraph 9 above, their respective share in the Tax Equalization Fund of the estimated staff assessment income of 345,500 dollars approved for the Observer Mission for the period from 1 July to 30 November 1996;

11. Decides also to apportion among Member States the additional amount of 13,192,345 dollars gross (12,989,545 dollars net) for the operation of the Observer Mission for the period from 1 December 1996 to 31 March 1997 in accordance with the scheme set out in the present resolution;

12. Decides further that, in accordance with the provisions of its resolution 973 (X), there shall be set off against the apportionment among Member States, as provided for in paragraph 11 above, their respective share in the Tax Equalization Fund of the estimated staff assessment income of 202,800 dollars approved for the Observer Mission for the period from 1 December 1996 to 31 March 1997;

13. Decides to apportion among Member States the amount of 4,706,655 dollars gross (4,554,555 dollars net) at the monthly rate of 1,568,885 dollars gross (1,518,185 dollars net) for the maintenance of the Observer Mission for the period from 1 April to 30 June 1997 in addition to the amount of 1,168,000 dollars gross (1,098,900 dollars net) per month already authorized under General Assembly resolution 51/3 and in accordance with the scheme set out in the present resolution, subject to the decision of the Security Council to extend the mandate of the Mission beyond 31 March 1997;

14. Decides also that, in accordance with the provisions of its resolution 973 (X), there shall be set off against the apportionment among Member States, as provided for in paragraph 13 above, their respective share in the Tax Equalization Fund of the estimated staff assessment income of 152,100 dollars, which is equivalent to a monthly rate of 50,700 dollars, approved for the Observer Mission for the period from 1 April to 30 June 1997;

15. Decides further that, for Member States that have fulfilled their financial obligations to the Observer Mission, there shall be set off against the apportionment, as provided in paragraphs 9 and 11 above, their respective share in the unencumbered balance of 13,466,400 dollars gross (13,443,900 dollars net) for the period from 1 July 1995 to 30 June 1996;

16. Decides that, for Member States that have not fulfilled their financial obligations to the Observer Mission, their share of the unencumbered balance of 13,466,400 dollars gross (13,443,900 dollars net) for the period from 1 July 1995 to 30 June 1996 shall be set off against their outstanding obligations;

17. Invites voluntary contributions to the Observer Mission in cash and in the form of services and supplies acceptable to the Secretary-General, to be

administered, as appropriate, in accordance with the procedure established by the General Assembly in its resolutions 43/230 of 21 December 1988, 44/192 A of 21 December 1989 and 45/258 of 3 May 1991;

18. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-second session the item entitled "Financing of the United Nations Observer Mission in Liberia".